



National Veterans

# TEE TIMES

*Training—Exposure—Experience*

Thursday, September 15, 2011

## *Alternative Activity Day: Bags, Paddles, Hooves and Pins*

### **KAYAKING...Veterans Take to the Water**

**By Peter Tillman, Media Team**

Drizzle? What drizzle? Bus stuck in the sand? Nothing a jeep rescue couldn't fix. The show must go on and it did! The weather could not hold back dozens of participants who braved the elements to kayak, enjoy the water and each other's company.

One participant, Randy Fratzke of Arnolds Park, Iowa was determined to put his paddle in the water. An experienced kayaker, he built himself a 12 foot fiberglass kayak and uses it for salmon fishing with fly rods he makes by hand in his woodshop.

Both first timers and the experienced used kayaks brought to the event by community volunteers. Among those on hand to help ensure Veterans of all experience were safe and had fun was *Seatasea*, a water sports company located in Cedar Rapids that brought 16 kayaks to the event.

Luis Farias of San Antonio, Texas challenged other Veterans to impromptu races — all found smiling from ear to ear. Even with the morning chill in the air, the water temperature was just right. When they left, they headed for a warm shower... all wanted to do it again.



"That was a blast, and I'm tired."  
—**Randy Fratzke**,  
Arnolds Park, Iowa



**WEATHER**  
**Sunny**  
**High 58°**  
**Low 40°**

## Kayaking Photos



"I want to get out there and race, I'm having a blast."

—**Luis Farias**, San Antonio,



"Glad I came, the best part was almost falling over," (he did not) and this is my first time kayaking."

—**John King**, Chicago, Illinois

"I feel lucky to be a part of something like this, this is my first year, and my brother is a Veteran."

—**Judy Kelsey**, Seatasea in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

"I'm having a great time as long as I am in a kayak."

—**Mike Simpson**, Madison Heights, Michigan



## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- The medical team reminds you that there are medical staff in **RED** t-shirts at each event.
- Water, sunscreen and bug spray are your best friends when outside.
- Call the hotel room by dialing 7140 if you need medical assistance after hours. The medical room hours are from 7 a.m.—5 p.m. daily.



## Transportation Station

Angie reminds everyone to **go to the transportation desk and give them your departure and flight information.** This is so transportation can make bus arrangements and that you don't miss your flight home!



## LOST & FOUND

For lost or found items, please go to the Transportation/Information table.

## National Veterans TEE Tournament Web Site



**[www.tee.va.gov](http://www.tee.va.gov)**

*Share TEE Tournament news with your family and friends back home. The TEE Times is posted daily on the Tournament Web site at [www.tee.va.gov](http://www.tee.va.gov).*

## BOWLING...Veterans on a Roll

By Charlie Quesenberry, Media Team

Wednesday morning was a tad dreary in Iowa City, a stark contrast to yesterday's bright blue skies and brilliant sunshine. Nonetheless, typical of the Veterans' spirit, it was all smiles and bright faces at the Colonial Lanes bowling alley for an entire busload of competitors.

Clyde Ray and his service dog "Sunshine", an exuberant yellow Labrador, brought a new meaning to the term "dog bowl" at the lanes. "Wouldn't miss this for the world," said Ray. "And neither would Sunshine."

One bowler who caught a lot of attention was Bob Thomas. "I can't bowl worth a \_\_\_\_, but I have a lot of fun," said Thomas. Bob was sporting a rather unique bowling ball; it featured a huge white eyeball with a blue retina, just like the one that floated before viewers of the old television show, *The Twilight Zone*. "I can't see, so the ball sees for me," he said with a huge grin.

Other bowlers used adaptive equipment. Some used a portable metal tube ramp to line up and launch a ball down the lane. A new piece of adaptive equipment was tested out for the first time as well. Unlike the ramp that is static, the new device attaches to a motorized wheelchair, allowing the user to use forward momentum to launch the ball and also angle the path of the ball as it is launched. Arthur Hull was very excited about the new equipment. "If we can't conquer a sport, we will adapt the sport to us," he said.

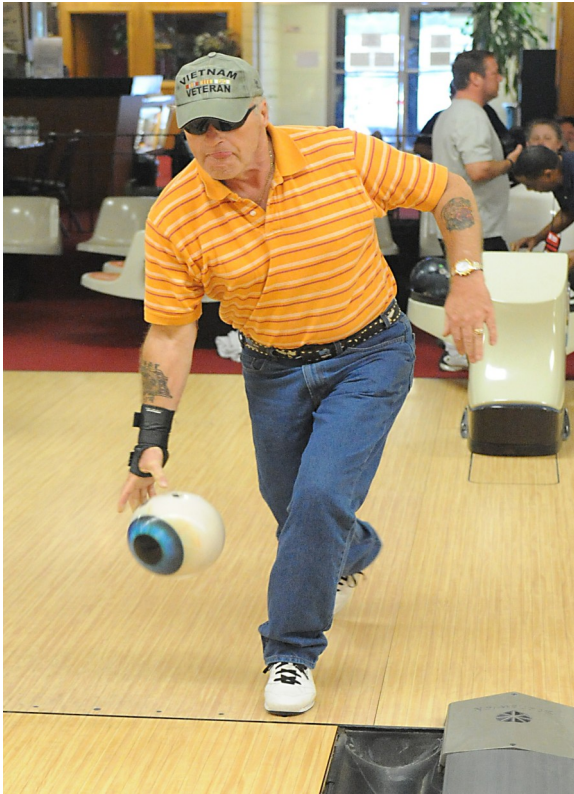
Richard Shaw was the first Veteran to try out the new device which was test-fitted to his wheelchair. "This thing is great!" he said. "I've got to get one of these!"

The morning's bowling activities slowly came to an end; sponsors, volunteer and Veterans were recognized for their support and their accomplishments. As the competitors boarded the bus back to the resort, the dreary skies gave way to more Iowa sunshine, a fitting recognition of this special group of very special Americans.

***See photos on page 5***



## Bowling Photos



Bob Thomas' ball see its way to the pins

It takes three to Tango at the bowling alley



New adaptive gear makes its way to the bowling alley



Going for a strike!!

## THERAPEUTIC HORSEBACK RIDING...New to the TEE

By Peter Tillman, Media Team

Adding a new sport to this year's TEE tournament is the addition of therapeutic horseback riding. Eleven participants took turns on six beautiful horses for a half-hour leisurely ride at Blue Top Lake. Many Veterans had not ridden in quite a while and this activity did not disappoint.

Veterans connected with the horses and other Veterans. Proving it's a small world after all, volunteer Jim McLain was introduced to one of the participants and both realized they had served in Vietnam and both had loss of vision in the same eye. "It is pretty amazing," Jim said, "we have both learned to live with it."



Thunder Rode, a therapeutic horseback riding and horse grooming program out of Decorah, Iowa, volunteered its services this year. This event also marked the kickoff of their new program, *Veterans Helping Veterans*. Executive Director Michelle McClain-Kruse was happy to volunteer the organization reporting "we were looking for something like this...this event took us to the top."

Next year, the TEE tournament will truly have "Horse-back," as the equestrians are scheduled to return. And next time, there will be more stories of shared experience, camaraderie, and friendships made with our four legged friends.

## BAG TOSS...Who called it Cornhole?



Bag Toss is often called Cornhole in some parts of the country but here it's called just plain fun. After warming up, the eight team, double elimination bag toss tournament was underway. By late afternoon, Don Slone of Louisville, Kentucky and Reg Eberle of Iowa City had bested the team of "Hank and Herbert" to win the Bag Toss Tournament. We heard through the grapevine that the runner-up team did not go lightly.

The stage is set for a rematch in 2012...but a field of contenders will be practicing so it promises to be another year of fierce competition.



## **TEE TOURNAMENT GOES TO THE DOGS**



**Midnight is Bob  
Thomas' BFF**



**Linus strikes a pose**



**Happy 8th Birthday Verna!  
You only look 7!!**



**Shadow casts  
no doubt...this is  
fun!**



**Sam shows off the  
latest fashion in  
water wear**



**Charlie's pooped...**











# TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE

## PARTICIPANTS

6—7:30 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet**—RCGR, Robert's Buffet  
Event Center Atrium

7:30—8 a.m. **Load Buses**—Each team has the same bus all day

8 am—11 a.m. **GOLF**



**RED Team**—Lake MacBride with Bonnie Whitson

**YELLOW Team**—Quail Creek with Mike Owen

**GREEN Team**—West Liberty with Bob Neff

**PURPLE Team**—Elks Country Club with Kate Beardsley

**BLUE Team**—Blue Top Ridge with Eric Ringena

**BLACK Team**—Blue Top Ridge with Joe Padilla

11 a.m.—  
12:30 p.m. **LUNCH** —at your golf site

12:30— **GOLF**

3:30 p.m. **RED Team**—Lake MacBride with Bonnie Whitson

**YELLOW Team**—Quail Creek with Mike Owen

**GREEN Team**—West Liberty with Bob Neff

**PURPLE Team**—Elks Country Club with Kate Beardsley

**BLUE Team**—Blue Top Ridge with Eric Ringena

**BLACK Team**—Blue Top Ridge with Joe Padilla

4:30—6:30 p.m. **Medal Ceremony**—RCGR Poolside

6:30—9 p.m. **Dinner & Awards Banquet**—RCGR Event Center  
Entertainment following banquet



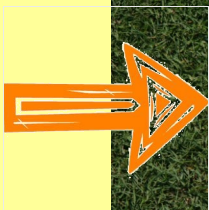
***TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE Continued******COMPANIONS***

8—9:30 a.m.	<b>Make Blankets for UIHC &amp; Scrapbooking Photos from Tee Tournament</b> —Event Center Atrium (original registration area)
9:30 a.m.	<b>Load Bus for Kalona</b>
10 a.m.— 1:30 p.m.	<b>Amish Tour and Lunch</b>
1:30—2 p.m.	<b>Load Bus for Main Amana</b>
2—3:30 p.m.	<b>Shopping in Main Amana</b>
3:30—4 p.m.	<b>Load Bus for Riverside Casino</b>

***TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE******Friday, September 16, 2011***

6—7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Buffet</b> —RCGR, Robert's Buffet <i>Event Center Atrium</i>
7—11:00 a.m.	<b>Check-Out &amp; Farewells!</b>
7 a.m.—3 p.m.	<b>Rides to Airport and Bus Depot</b>

**Have you  
seen  
this?**



**We are missing 2  
Tee Markers. If  
found, please  
bring to the  
Hotel Desk**